Resolution No. 🙋

Re: Economic Crisis Relief for Affected Water & Sewerage Customers

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A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO ECONOMIC CRISIS RELIEF FOR AFFECTED WATER AND SEWERAGE CUSTOMERS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is authorized by Section 9-722(a)(1) of the *Environmental Article* of the <u>Maryland Annotated Code</u> to establish a reasonable charge that is not less than the actual cost for connection with a water or sewerage system;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is authorized by Section 9-723(a) of the *Environmental Article* of the <u>Maryland Annotated Code</u> to establish reasonable rates for water service, and reasonable charges for sewer upkeep and sewer service;

WHEREAS, the federal government was without a budget from December 22, 2018 through January 25, 2019, resulting in many employees not receiving multiple paychecks;

WHEREAS, an effect thereof has been the closure of several federal offices with employees not reporting to work while other federal employees were working without pay;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works, Water and Sewerage Division bill water and sewerage customers for usage for the period October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, and these usage charges were due and payable by January 30, 2019;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has been advised by the Department of Public Works and Department of Finance and Budget that there are some public water and sewerage customers that were fiscally impacted by the closure of several federal offices, referred to herein as "affected customer";

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance & Budget and Department of Public Works recommends the following for those customers that contact the Water and Sewerage Division, either in writing or by phone, and identify themselves as an "affected customer": (1) notate the "affected customer" status in the utility billing system; (2) do not shut off the water or sewerage service; and (3) reverse the late payment and interest charge penalty for the 4th quarter 2018 billing;

WHEREAS, the "affected customer" has until the close of business on Friday, May 3, 2019 to pay their 4th quarter 2018 past due bill to avoid a late fee or interest penalty imposed;

WHEREAS, a public hearing regarding Ordinance No. 02-19 was held on February 12, 2019, which provided for the abatement or deferral of fees, fines and penalties as may be necessary and appropriate, on a case-by-case basis; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners held the record open for a minimum of 10 days to receive public comment; and upon consideration of the comments of the public and staff, and in the furtherance of the public health, safety and welfare, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 02-19 on February 26, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners that, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, every "affected customer" shall be eligible to pay 4th quarter 2018 water and sewerage bills without penalty or interest not later than May 3, 2019;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, that, in the event any portion of this Resolution is found to be unconstitutional, illegal, null or void, by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to sever only the invalid portion or provision, and that the remainder of the Resolution shall be enforceable and valid, unless deletion of the invalid portion would defeat the clear purpose of the Resolution, or unless deletion of the valid portion would produce a result inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the Board of County Commissioners in enacting this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that the foregoing recitals are adopted as if fully rewritten herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland that this Resolution shall be effective upon recordation and publication of a fair summary.

DONE, this 12th day of March 2019, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, sitting in regular session.

Aye: <u>5</u>	
Nay: 💋	
Absent/Abstain:	
ATTEST:	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND
Mayrea Strederice	Thomas Filips
Maureen L. Frederick, Clerk	Thomas E. Hutchins, President
	Kell d. M. Conf
	Kelly D. McConkey, Vice President
Approved for form and legal sufficiency	Earl Deco
by:	Earl F. Hance
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John B Norris, County Attorney	Mrke Hart
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recorded in Liber KPS No. 57	ay
Folio. COUNTY COMMISSIONE	ine.
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION.	ino i
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